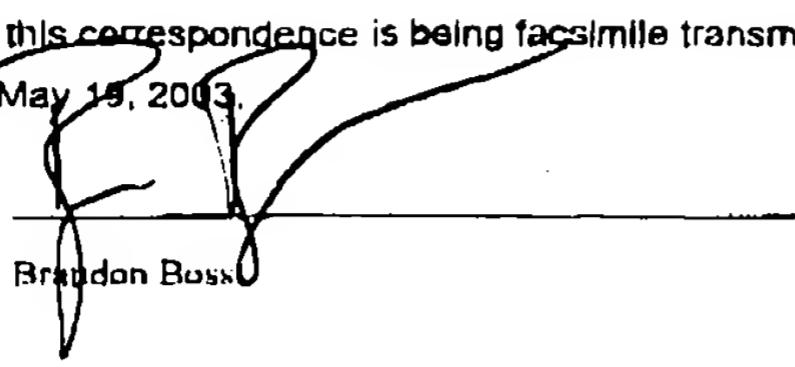


**U.S. Patent App. No. 09/647,659
Docket: 033082.052**

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Signature:



Brandon Buss

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: Masahito Ozawa

Examiner: GRAYBILL, DAVID E

Application No.: 09/647,659

Group Art Unit: 2814

Filing Date: 10/04/2000

For: **ALIGNMENT PROCESSING MECHANISM AND SEMICONDUCTOR
PROCESSING UNIT WITH ALIGNMENT PROCESSING MECHANISM**

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This response to the Office Action mailed December 18, 2002 is being timely filed with a petition for a two month extension of time on May 19, 2003 (May 18, 2003 was a Sunday). The Office Action indicated that claims 1 and 3-17 were rejected and that claim 18 is allowed.

Applicants have carefully considered the rejection and request that claims 1, 10, and 18 be amended. No additional fees are believed to be due as a result of these amendments.